

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A floor covering panel comprising a top side, at least two opposite edges including coupling elements made in one piece with the panel and arranged so that several ones of such panels can be mutually coupled to form a floor covering, said coupling elements arranged to enable an interlocking of the coupling elements between panels in a direction perpendicular to a plane including the panels, as well as in a direction perpendicular to the respective edges and parallel to the plane including the panels, and wherein said panel is a laminated construction including at least an MDF/HDF core layer and a panel decorative layer above the core layer;

said coupling elements are formed in one piece with the core layer and define tongue and groove interlocking elements;

a cut-away portion adjacent at least one of said two opposite edges, and intersecting said top side, said cut-away portion penetrating and exposing an edge area of said panel decorative layer and said core layer when viewed from the top side of the panel; and

a film or coating-like decorative cut-away portion covering layer adhered to on the area of the cut-away portion masking said exposed edge area only, said decorative cut-away portion covering layer being a separate layer from said panel decorative layer.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The floor covering panel according to claim 1, wherein each cut-away portion comprises a bevel extending at an angle of 45° in relation to the plane including the panel.

4. (Previously Presented) The floor covering panel according to claim 3, wherein each cut-away portion, in the plane of the respective panel, extends over a distance of about 2 millimeter.

5. (Canceled)

Serial Number: 09/805,234

6. (Previously Presented) The floor covering panel according to claim 1, wherein the coupling elements when coupled between ones of said panel, are disconnectable at least in one additional manner other than rotation relative to the coupled edges of the panels.

7. (Previously Presented) The floor covering panel according to claim 1, wherein the panel is rectangular and said cut-away portion is provided on all four sides of the panels.

Claims 8 - 16 (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The floor covering panel according to claim 1, wherein each cut-away portion is a bevel extending at an angle so that the plane including the bevel does not intersect any other portion of the respective edge section of the panel at which the bevel is provided.

18. (Previously Presented) A floor covering panel according to claim 1, comprising a bottom side, wherein the panel is separately provided with an underlayer attached to the bottom side, said underlayer being polyethylene or polyethylene based material.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Amended) The floor panel covering according to claim 1, wherein the panel has a minimum thickness of 9 mm.

21. (Previously Amended) The floor covering panel according to claim 1, wherein the panel has a minimum thickness of 10 mm.

22. (Canceled)

Serial Number: 09/805,234

23. (Previously Presented) The floor covering panel according to claim 1, wherein the coupling elements are configured so that the panels can be rotated in or out of one another at least along said opposite edges.

24. (Previously Presented) The floor covering panel according to claim 1, wherein said panel is rectangular and elongated and including said coupling elements on at least on two opposite longitudinal edges of the panel, such that several ones of such panel can be mutually coupled to one another along said edges, and wherein the coupling elements are configured such that individual panels can be coupled and/or uncoupled with similar panels by means of rotation motion about cooperating opposed longitudinal edges of the panels, and wherein the width of the panel (2) is smaller than 17 cm.

25. (Previously Presented) The floor covering panel according to claim 23, wherein said panel is rectangular and elongated, and wherein the width of the panel is smaller than 17 cm.

26. (Previously Presented) The floor covering panel according to claim 1, including a cut-away portion adjacent at least two opposed edges.

27. (Previously Presented) The floor covering panel according to claim 1, wherein the decorative cut-away portion covering layer comprises a print.

28. (Previously Presented) The floor covering panel according to claim 27, wherein said print is a transfer layer.

29. (Previously Presented) The floor covering panel according to claim 1, wherein the panel decorative layer of the top core surface comprises a paper layer printed with a pattern.

Serial Number: 09/805,234

30. (Previously Presented) The floor covering panel according to claim 1, wherein the decorative cut-away portion covering layer represents a print on each cut-away portion and wherein this print is provided with a pattern similar to the pattern of the panel decorative layer.

31. (Previously Presented) The floor covering panel according to claim 1, wherein the decorative cut-away portion covering layer is a moisture-proof impermeable layer.

32. (Canceled)